

TIM BURCHETT

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4202
(202) 225-5435

DISTRICT OFFICES:
800 Market Street, Suite 110
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: (865) 523-3772
Fax: (865) 544-0728

331 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: (865) 984-5464
Fax: (865) 984-0521

<https://burchett.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4202

COMMITTEES:

Committee on Foreign Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Nonproliferation
Middle East, North Africa and Global
Counterterrorism

Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Aviation
Highways and Transit
Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

From 2019 to 2020, drug overdose deaths jumped from 70,630 to 91,794, driven by 20,000 more deaths attributed to synthetic opioid fentanyl and its deadlier analogs¹. In fiscal year 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents seized over 11,000 pounds of fentanyl coming across the southern border, a 42 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. Our country cannot tolerate another year of surging overdose deaths. It is past time to fight back.

That is why, on Jan. 20, 2022, I introduced H.R. 6439, the Fentanyl Trafficker Elimination Act. This critical legislation increases criminal penalties to deter smugglers and slow the spread of illegal fentanyl before it ever crosses our borders. Specifically, H.R. 6439 amends the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) to require life imprisonment for anyone convicted of intentionally trafficking fentanyl or fentanyl analogs.

On Feb. 3, 2022, I asked President Joe Biden to strengthen criminal penalties against fentanyl traffickers. I now respectfully request your support for my legislation and implore you to do everything in your power to prevent this deadly substance from entering our country. This is a crisis that affects everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress

¹ <https://nida.nih.gov/drug-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates>